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MONROE POLICE OFFICER AND FORMER OFFICER INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES

*Indictment alleges insurance companies
defrauded out of approximately \$112,000*

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . BRANDON EMORY BROOKS, formerly a Monroe City Police Officer, and **PAUL W. BROWN**, currently a Monroe City Police Officer, have each been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of mail fraud, witness tampering, making false statements to a federal agent, and conspiracy, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today.

The indictment charges BROOKS, age 27, of Monroe, with five counts of mail fraud, one count of witness tampering, one count of making a false statement to a federal agent, and one count of conspiracy to make false statements to federal agents. BROWN, age 41, also of Monroe, is charged with one count of making a false statement to a federal agent and one count of conspiracy to make false statements to federal agents.

It is alleged in the indictment that beginning on or about May 2003 and continuing until April 2007, BROOKS defrauded various insurance companies by filing fraudulent claims related to his home and vehicles. BROOKS filed at least 13 insurance claims during this period of time.

The indictment alleges that in May 2003, BROOKS caused the arson of his home in Calhoun, Louisiana. The indictment also alleges that in January 2004, BROOKS caused his 1998 Pontiac Formula to go into the Ouachita River and he asked a friend to lie about being present at the Ouachita River when the car went into the river. It is further alleged that in May 2003 and March 2005 BROOKS filed hail claims on an automobile claiming it had been damaged by hail; but each instance when the insurer requested an inspection, BROOKS withdrew the claim. In June 2006, BROOKS filed a claim for damage to a motorcycle which had been in the bed of a truck which he drove into Cheniere Lake on May 31, 2006.

The indictment further alleges that BROWN and BROOKS conspired together and each made false statements to an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation when being interviewed; BROWN, about the January 2004 incident at Ouachita River, and BROOKS, about the May 2003 house burning incident.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated: "This office is determined to follow the trail of evidence of criminal violations wherever it leads without regard to the defendant's station in life. All good citizens expect police officers to be persons of the highest integrity. When their conduct dips into the turbid well of criminal violations, we will bring them to justice in the manner that we do for all citizens."

FBI agents arrested BROOKS for one count of mail fraud related to the arson of his home on April 3, 2007. On April 23, 2007, Magistrate Judge Karen L. Hayes conducted a preliminary examination and found probable cause to believe that BROOKS had committed this crime.

An arraignment has been set for May 4 at 10:00 in U.S. District Court in Monroe, Louisiana.

If convicted, BROOKS faces up to 20 years in prison on the mail fraud counts; up to 5 years in prison on the false statement count; up to 10 years in prison on the witness tampering count; and up to 5 years in prison on the conspiracy count. Each count also carries a maximum penalty of a \$250,000 fine.

If convicted, BROWN faces up to 5 years in prison on the false statement count; up to 5 years in

prison on the conspiracy count. Each count also carries a maximum penalty of a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Monroe Resident Agency, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Mignonne Griffing. Chief Ron Schleuter of the Monroe City Police Department cooperated fully in the investigation.

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